

Remarks

By the foregoing Amendments, Applicant has amended Claims 1-11, has cancelled Claims 18-20 and added Claim 21. Therefore, Claims 1-14 and 21 remain pending. Entry of the Amendments and favorable consideration thereof is earnestly requested.

Applicant would initially like apologize to the Examiner for any confusion caused by Applicant during prosecution to date. It is Applicant's intent by the foregoing Amendments to amend the claims to require all elements as were required when the Examiner indicated, in the Office Action mailed June 17, 2004, that the claims contained allowable subject matter. Of course, it is also Applicant's intent to address the Examiner's expressed concerns regarding the clarity of the claims and his rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112. Should the Examiner believe that Applicant's Amendments have failed to achieve its intent or that there are any other issues which need to be addressed, Applicant encourages the Examiner to telephone the undersigned.

The Examiner has asserted that the application contains claims directed to several patentably distinct species of the claimed invention, and has required Applicant to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if not generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Applicant hereby elects Species A (Figures 1 and 2) for prosecution at this time. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-9 are readable on the elected species, and therefore respectfully asks the Examiner to consider Claims 1-9 at this time. Applicant further notes that Claims 10-14 and 21 should be entitled to consideration once one or more generic claims is found to be allowable, and that Claim 1 (which is generic to all species) has already been indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims, namely Claims 1-14 and 21, are patentable over the references of record, and earnestly solicits allowance of the same.

Respectfully submitted,



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